

## **The Smaller Catechism for the Use of Old Catholics**

By Joseph René Vilatte

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Transcribed by Richard Mammana, 2012

IMPRIMATUR:  
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### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### THE OUR FATHER.

Our Father, who art in heaven! Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

### THE HAIL MARY.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the [1/2] fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

1.—I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me. Thou shalt not

make unto thyself any graven idol nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth, thou shalt not adore them nor serve them.

2.—Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

3.—Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

4.—Honor thy father and thy mother.

5.—Thou shalt do no murder.

6.—Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7.—Thou shalt not steal.

8.—Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

9.—Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

10.—Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

### THE CONFITEOR.

I confess to Almighty God, to Blessed Mary ever-virgin, to Blessed Michael the Archangel, to Blessed John the Baptist, to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and to all the saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I beseech the Blessed Mary ever-virgin, Blessed Michael the Archangel, Blessed John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles [3/4] Peter and Paul, and all the saints, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

May the Almighty God have mercy upon me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant me pardon + absolution, and remission of all my sins. Amen.

### AN ACT OF FAITH.

O my God, I believe all the truths which thou hast revealed, because thou art the truth itself, and so thou canst neither be deceived, nor deceive us.

### AN ACT OF HOPE.

O my God, I hope that through the merits of Jesus Christ thou wilt grant me everlasting life, and all the graces necessary to obtain it.

### AN ACT OF CHARITY OR LOVE.

O my God, I love thee with all my heart, because thou art infinitely good. And I love my neighbor also for the love of thee.

## [5] AN ACT OF CONTRITION.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having sinned, because thou art infinitely good, and sin offendeth thee. Forgive me through the merits of Jesus Christ thy Son. Grant me grace never more to offend thee, and to do penance for all that is past.

## PRAYER FOR THE DEAD.

May the Souls of the faithful through the mercy of God rest in peace.

[It is the duty of parents to teach all that precedes to their children.]

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Q. What are the chief mysteries of the Christian Religion?

A. The Creation, the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption, and the Seven Sacraments.

[Let the catechist instruct orally in regard to the Creation, Trinity, Incarnation, and Redemption.]

Q. Name the Seven Sacraments?

A. Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, [5/6] Penance, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Unction of the Sick.

Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is a Sacrament which cleanses us from sin and makes us Christians.

Q. How is Baptism given?

A. By dipping the person to be baptised in water, or pouring water upon the person's head, saying these words: I baptise thee in the name of the Father + and of the + Son, and of the + Holy Ghost.

Q. What is Confirmation?

A. Confirmation is a Sacrament in which we receive the Holy Ghost to make us strong and perfect Christians.

Q. How does the Bishop give Confirmation?

A. He lays his hands on the heads of the persons to be confirmed, prays the Holy Ghost to come down upon them, and makes the sign of the cross on their foreheads with holy chrism.

Q. What is given in Holy Communion?

A. The true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the *forms* of bread and wine.

Q. How must we come to Communion?

A. Fasting, and after confession.

Q. What is the Sacrament of Penance?

A. Penance is the Sacrament established by [6/7] Christ to remit sins committed after baptism.

Q. How many parts are there in the Sacrament of penance?

A. Three. Confession to the priest, true sorrow for sin, and the priest's absolution.

Q. What is Holy Orders?

A. Holy Orders is the Sacrament by which bishops, priests, and deacons, are ordained and get the power and grace to perform their sacred duties.

Q. What is the Sacrament of Matrimony?

A. It is the Sacrament which joins a Christian man and woman together as man and wife *in the Church* of God.

Q. What is Unction of the Sick?

A. Unction of the Sick is a Sacrament in which a sick person, through the anointing with holy oil and prayers of the priest, receives the grace of God for the good of the soul, and often, also, of the body.

#### THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE CHURCH.

Q. What are the principal commandments of the Church?

A. (1) To hear Mass on Sundays and feasts of obligation.

[8](2) To fast and abstain from flesh meat on the days appointed.

(3) To go to confession at least once a year.

(4) To receive holly communion during Eastertide.

(5) To help support our pastors.

(6) Not to marry within the forbidden degrees.

#### GRACE BEFORE MEALS.

Bless us, O Lord, and this food of which we are about to partake. + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### THANKS AFTER MEALS.

We give thee thanks, Almighty God, for these and all thy benefits, thou who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen. + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### PRAISE THE PRECIOUS BLOOD